



Ernst Peterson, Public

Ruts of Pioneer Wagons on Oregon Trail at South Pass, Wyo.

PIONEER LIFE IN AMERICA / *A Visitor's Guide to Pioneer America*

Americans take great pride in their pioneer ancestors. Monuments, parks, and historic sites from coast to coast honor the first settlers of almost every community. Entire frontier settlements have been reconstructed. Museums exhibit pioneer tools, clothing, furniture, and crafts.

A traveler may follow several routes of the pioneers. For example, the National Road is now U.S. Highway 40. It links Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, and is called the National Old Trail Road. The Natchez Trace National Parkway, between Nashville, Tenn., and Natchez, Miss., follows the ancient Indian trail used by the early settlers of the Gulf States. U.S. Highway 30, westward from Kearney, Nebr., closely follows the Oregon Trail. At several points, travelers can clearly see ruts made in the ground by the wagon trains.

PLACES TO VISIT

Following are brief descriptions of some especially interesting places to visit. See also the Places to Visit section of the *World Book* article on each state.

Andrew Jackson Historical State Park, in Lancaster, S.C., has a museum of pioneer objects and several reconstructed shops of the pioneer period.

Cades Cove, part of Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the Tennessee-North Carolina border, is an entire frontier community whose buildings have been preserved. They include barns, churches, mills, and many log cabins.

Campus Martius Museum, in Marietta, Ohio, stands on the site of a stockade built by the first settlers of Ohio.

Its exhibits include a pioneer kitchen, and displays of pioneer clothing, furniture, and tools.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, at the meeting point of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia, includes the natural pass through the Appalachian Mountains used by many pioneers traveling the Wilderness Road.

Davy Crockett Cabin, in Rutherford, Tenn., is a log cabin of the pioneer period. Crockett lived in it during the early 1800's. The homemade furnishings include a rocking chair made by the famous frontiersman.

Emigrant Spring, in downtown Independence, Mo., is the well where pioneers bound for the Far West filled their water kegs before heading across the Great Plains.

Fort Bridger, a trading post on the Oregon Trail in the 1840's, is a state park near the town of Fort Bridger, Wyo. Many of the fort's original buildings have been restored. The park has a museum.

Fort Laramie National Historical Site, near Fort Laramie, Wyo., is a restoration of an important stopping place for wagon trains on the Oregon Trail.

Fort Recovery, in the village of Fort Recovery, Ohio, is a reproduction of part of a fort built in 1793.

Independence Rock, a huge block of granite on the north bank of the Sweetwater River near Alcova, Wyo., is a landmark of the Oregon Trail. Hundreds of settlers bound for the Far West scratched their names on the rock.

Lincoln Pioneer Village, in Rockport, Ind., has 17 log buildings with pioneer furnishings. A stockade encloses the village.